

# WESTERN KANSAS WORLD



YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, \$2.00. STOCK FARMING THE BASIS OF OUR INDUSTRIES. SINGLE COPY, 5 CENTS. SEVENTH YEAR. WA-KEENEY, KANSAS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1885. NUMBER 28.

PHILLIPS COUNTY'S new post-office is named Lector.

THERE is some post-office excitement at Hays City, too.

KENNETH clamors, through the Democrat, for a boot and shoemaker.

THE cotton-growing business of the South has been increased wonderfully under the impetus of free labor.

OUR neighboring county of Scott, wonderfully new though it is, has reached the stage of having one of its post-offices discontinued. Spring was the name.

W. A. JOHNSTON, we see by the Leader, has felt impelled to leave his wife, and hunt new stamping grounds, for being too intimate with a bird girl.

You can't eat enough in a week to last you a year, and you can't advertise on that plan, either.—[K. C. Live Stock Indicator.] That is straight goods, neighbor.

HAYS City owns an occupation tax. This is in addition to a 5-mill tax levy. An occupation tax should be shunned. It is not a necessity in any healthy town.

MINNESOTA has a new census. It reflects her population as being 1,118,286, a gain over the United States census in 1880 of 337,313, or an increase of 425 5-100 per cent.

THE Lenora Leader tells that two weeks ago to-day lightning burned down some grain stacks belonging to J. M. Hardman, in the north part of Graham county.

THE state auditor has certified to the treasurer of Sheridan county that \$3,064.08 has been appropriated as the accrued costs in the trial of the murder of L. G. Rider, of Thomas county.

THE claim is made that the largest fish ever caught in the Missouri was hooked and landed by Captain Burns at Quindaro, Kansas, the other day. It was nine feet long and weighed 300 pounds.

A MUCH-SIGNED petition was being circulated in Norton, asking the probate judge to revoke the druggists' permits. The druggists grew weak, and voluntarily surrendered their permits. Norton people mean business when they get started.

In the opening speech of the Ohio Republican campaign at Mount Gilead, on Wednesday of last week, Senator Sherman showed that the rebels are on top, and that the Democratic party holds the South by the meanest frauds. John is a scalper.

It is rumored that the railroad from Dodge City north into Nebraska, is a settled thing, and that the most of the grading will be done this fall. The WORLD regrets that in the case of this road's being built, it is to be run through the tier of counties to the east of us.

A SPRINGFIELD, Ohio, syndicate, represented by John H. Thompson, as trustee, and ex-Speaker J. Warren Keifer, as attorney, have purchased the old Fort Harker, (Ellsworth county,) military reservation, consisting of 4,740 acres, for \$71,200, the Ellsworth Reporter relates.

SOME of our readers would probably like dearly to see the Kansas game law. Here it is: "Woodcock, wild turkeys and deer can be killed and sold from August 1 to March 1; quail from November 1 to January 1; pheasant from October 1 to March 1; prairie chickens from September 1 to December 1.

At the horse races at Kirwin lately, a young man persisted in riding over the grounds with his shirt outside his pants. When the marshal got after him, the fellow tried to escape. A beer bottle was broken over his head, and then he stopped. History does not record whether the bottle was loaded with fluid, and we are left in the dark as to whether he stopped to take a drink. The Stockton News, doubtless with one eye centered on the naked race a few weeks ago in the streets of its own town, naively suggests as to the Mother Hubbard to rob a young man of his personal liberty. Stockton would not be so naughty."

### LEARNING TO SPELL.

Learning to read the English language is one of the worst mind-stunting processes that has formed a part of the general education of any people. Its evil influence arises from the partly phonetic, partly lawless character of English spelling. Although each letter represents some sound oftener than any other, there is hardly a letter in the alphabet that does not represent more than one sound, and hardly a sound in the language that is not represented in several ways, while many words are written with as many silent letters as significant ones. There is nothing in any word to indicate in which of these ways its component sounds are represented, nothing in the written group of letters to show which they stand for, and which of them, if any, are silent, so that a learner can never be sure of pronouncing rightly an English word that he has not heard spoken, nor of spelling correctly one that he never has seen written. The spelling of each word must be learned by sheer memory. In this work the pupil's reasoning powers can not be utilized, but must be subdued, while his memory is sadly overworked. In the affairs of the child's daily life, the logical following out of rules is awarded; in learning to spell, it brings him only discomfiture and bewilderment. He is taught that *h-o-u-s-e* stands for *hon* (not *bone*), and *l-o-u-s-e* for *lon*, but that *d-o-u-s-e* stands for *dan*; that *g-o-u-s-e* spells *gon*, *m-o-u-s-e* spells *moov*, and *b-r-o-n-z-e* *bronz*. Now when he comes in reading to another similar word, as *none*, he has no means of telling whether to call it *nuv*, *noon* or *non*; he can only look up at his teacher and wait to be told. The influence of the spelling class quickly drives him to repress any inclination to reason, and he gives himself up to a blind following of authority. No child learns English spelling without getting the pernicious notion that cram is better than thinking, and that common sense is a treacherous guide.—[Popular Science Monthly.]

This talk is to the point. It is a much-merited slap in the mouths of the college dudes who exclaim, on all occasions, that it is dangerous to tamper with the English language as we find it, lest this calamity or that might occur on account of its relation to the Latin tongue.

During the last several years, we have written some, and thought considerably, concerning the way out of the intellectual meshes which are so thoroughly delineated by the Popular Science Monthly.

We feel that we have reached a tangible basis from which to treat the subject, and the press of the country is appealed to for a decision in the case. Our doctrine is:

I. That the grievous faults in the construction of a very large proportion of the words in the English language should be corrected.

II. That such correction is practicable.

III. That its practicability lies in the channel of the adoption, in the outset, of a phonetic dictionary, which shall, where it does not, at first, displace dictionaries like the Webster and Worcester of the present, be their companion books.

This, then, is the remedy. What may be termed the long-spelling advocates would fight the new dictionary. This opposition would assist in its examination, and intelligent examination would insure its rapid adoption. This dictionary would afford Americans the privilege of exercising their reasoning powers while learning to spell. This is the point to grasp. This is the point to fight for.

But, we imagine some one to be asking, how is this dictionary to be procured? Well, now if such a book is wanted, its procurement will be a matter of course. The journalists of the United States, or, for that matter, those of Kansas, could afford to hire a philologist to edit the dictionary. It might require him five or ten years, or even longer, to complete the work. In the meanwhile, if they will unite in the undertaking, the fund which is raised in the incipency of the movement can be replenished with little or no individual inconvenience to the editors and publishers of the country or the state. Only a scholar of eminent attainments should be employed to edit this dictionary. He must be a person of nerve, as well as of culture. The school of long spellers will make a determined resistance to so glaring an innovation on their field of foolery. We say they will, because this fight is going to be made. It lies along the direct route of nature's victories.

In Kansas, the Junction City Tribune has discussed at length the necessity of newspapers adopting the phonetic method of spelling. The Troy Chief, we believe, has advocated, to some extent, the same policy. The Leavenworth Times, the Manhattan Nationalist, and perhaps a few other Kansas papers, follow the plan to the extent of omitting, (when they happen

to think of it,) some silent letters. The Wyandotte Gazette, under the management of Hon. R. B. Taylor, now deceased, was the only paper in Kansas which ever made a hobby of the use of the short-spelling method. Perhaps all that he ever accomplished was to be ridiculed in a mild degree for what was regarded, and, in a measure, justly so, as an eccentricity. This brings us to the statement of the plain proposition that one, two or three per cent. of the newspapers of the United States, or of a populous state, can accomplish little or nothing in the direction of a reform in spelling, unless the basis upon which they act is tangible. As it is now, the writer would fear to have the WORLD printed in phonetic spelling, even if he could be assured that the move would not be injurious financially. Do you ask why? Because we would not voluntarily take a step which would perplex still further the brains which are now so muddled by attempting to master the long spelling. But give the student of phonetics a comprehensive dictionary, and he will have solid ground to tread. When he once feels the solidity of his road, he certainly will be ready to bid an eternal farewell to the long-spelling dictionaries, except as reference books of curiosity. This dictionary will, at the same time, be the sure bulwark for the radical adoption of phonetic spelling by the newspapers generally. Then when the newspapers have adopted the system, its general adoption by the people will be only a short distance away!

Brother journalists of the United States, but especially of Kansas, will you assist us in the agitation of this great question?

### HOW CAN YOU TELL?

A Texas congressman says that one of the conditions on which Mr. Garland accepted the office of attorney general in President Cleveland's cabinet was that he "should not be subjected to the irksome restraints of Washington society." Judging by some of his official opinions, he seems to have been liberated from the restraints of legal wisdom at the same time.—[Leavenworth Times.]

After all, how can you tell that Garland is not as able an attorney general as the nation ever has had? To go into Garland's native state, Arkansas, and intimate a doubt of his possessing the most profound knowledge of law, would be sacrilege. He undoubtedly is a very able man. Old Jere Black, we believe, was generally regarded as a great lawyer. Has General Garland made any breaks which are as ridiculous as Black's opinion to the effect that it is unconstitutional to attempt to coerce a seceding state?

The Times is wise enough to know that law has much less to do with very many so-called legal opinions than sentiment or fear has. The decisions and opinions of the great bulk of the judges from Wisconsin to Alabama in anti-slavery times afford the strongest possible proof on this point. In fact, if there be any one who would rather deal strictly with the present than to go back before the war, he has only to glance at the clash of decisions rendered by various judges in the several states where prohibition laws are supposed to prevail.

### KANSAS PATENTS.

S. A. Haseltine & Bro., patent solicitors, Springfield, Missouri, send the WORLD the following list of patents which were issued to citizens of Kansas during the past week:

- F. H. Harman, Holton, insecticide-wash.
- R. F. Wilcox, Augusta, fence.
- G. W. Williamson, Ottawa, assignee of a corn-harvester.
- W. W. Dymond, Carbondale, assignee car-coupling.

Of Hon. Reuben E. Fenton, who died suddenly in his bank at Jamestown, N. Y., recently, the New York World says: He was a man of much more than ordinary character. Without being specially gifted or great, he managed to figure for a time as Republican leader in the empire state. He held two great honors, the governorship and the United States senatorship. He was affable and courtly, and he had the faculty of drawing men to him in an eminent degree. The last years of his political career were embittered by factional strife, and he was crowded from the stage by men who were superior in the arts of political aggression. It may be said of him that he was a sincere man and more honest than the politicians of his day and of his party.

### THEIR MISTAKE.

In the Topeka papers of these days are frequent articles devoted to publishing the letter of this person, that, and then another, whom the committee on invitation have invited to be present at the soldiers' re-union in that city on September 29 and 30 and October 1, and address the old soldiers. Perhaps not an invitation has been issued amiss. We dare say not, as far as old soldiers have been the recipients. But a sufficient number of these invitations have not been issued. Various veterans in western Kansas should be included in this program. We would inform that invitation committee that western Kansas has a larger number of old soldiers in proportion to her population than any other portion of even loyal Kansas can fairly claim.

General Black, from Washington, General Lew Wallace, from Indiana, and General So-on, from Thitherwards, are all right. But, if the advice of a private is of any possible value, take a little from the writer, and give the common soldiers a show of representation, even if a few of the always-civilian class who have been invited to air their sentiments at the soldiers' re-union have to be choked off.

We have attended re-unions of old soldiers. The faults which we have hinted at are grave ones, and their remedy should be executed heroically while the time yet remains.

### EMPEROR OF CENTRAL ASIA.

LONDON, Aug. 30.—Advices from Herat say that the czar will visit Mery in 1886, in the autumn, and will thence go to Samirand to be crowned emperor of Central Asia.

And this action is now decided on for upwards of a year hence by a man who has little assurance, indeed, of living from one hour to another among his home subjects. What picture could illustrate more clearly the utter unsafety of the imperial tenure? Russia herself will be a republic in due time. Of course, the time will be deferred in proportion to the success with which illiteracy, as encouraged by the czar, continues to flourish. In fact, as viewed from this standpoint, it may seem that republican government in Russia is to end in the dream of the sophist. But we hold that what is in the people of a country will be developed at some period. The Russians have brains. Their region is favorable to the propagation of brains. A sickly, feeble-minded people could not exist in that country.

DR. MILEY, the lately-appointed member of the pension board for this congressional district, lives at Beloit. He has been arrested on the charge of forging proofs in an attempted life insurance swindle. A lawyer named Hilton was arrested at the same place and time for the same offense.

A CHARTER of the Walnut Valley and Colorado Railroad company was filed with the Kansas secretary of state one day last week. This road is to run from a point at or near Great Bend westerly by the most available route through Barton, Rush, Ness, Lane, Scott, Wichita and Greeley counties to the western boundary of the state of Kansas. The estimated length of the road is 210 miles. The capital stock is \$4,200,000. The business of the company is to be transacted at Topeka.

THE Republican County central committee will meet in Ellsworth Saturday, August 29, at 2:00 p. m., for the purpose of deciding whether or not a convention will be called to nominate a county ticket to be voted on at the fall election.—[Wilson Echo.] If the members of that committee have given just cause for the statement that the purpose of their meeting is to decide whether to call a convention or not, a mistake probably was made in calling them the Republican committee.

THE Democrats in convention at Lenora last week nominated A. D. Gilkeson, of Hays City, for judge of this judicial district. Mr. Gilkeson's knowledge of law may be profound enough to enable him to play the role of judge acceptably. However, on general principles, aside from political considerations, we could not endorse him, even if he had not been roaming around considerably without any settled habitation for several years. As to his political principles, they probably are just as abominable as those of the average Democrat. We see with the eyes of November a majority of more than two thousand for L. K. Pratt.

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J. J. OSBORN, LEE MONROE, Attorneys-at-Law & Real Estate Agents. WA-KEENEY, KANSAS.

JOHN A. NELSON, ATTORNEY AT LAW AND Loan Agent.

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